

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's representative would like to thank the Examiner for courtesies extended in the productive personal interview conducted on June 15, 2005.

An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTOL-413) was provided by the Examiner at the interview on June 15, 2005 and mailed to Applicant's representative on June 21, 2005.

Applicant submits this Statement to comply with the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 713.04.

In the interview, the following was discussed:

A. Identification of claims discussed:

Claims 1, 13 and 15.

B. Identification of prior art discussed:

Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2001191139 (hereinafter JP '139).

C. Identification of principal proposed amendments:

Applicants proposed amending independent claims 1 and 13 to recite, *inter alia*,

“alternatively alternately repeating the first pressing and the second pressing a plurality of times, whereby portions of the pair of predetermined side wall regions are made to be a pair of valve guide walls of a valve engaging portion which extends in the height direction, in which the predetermined connecting wall region is made to be a connecting wall of the valve engaging portion, which connects the pair of valve guide walls with each other at an intermediate portion”

of the pair of valve guide walls in the height direction" as included in the Amendment filed on June 14, 2005.

D. Brief Identification of principal arguments:

Applicants' representative respectfully pointed out that nowhere in the figures (nor anywhere else for that matter) does JP '139 teach or suggest that the first and second pressing functions are alternately repeated a plurality of times. Indeed, the structure and method disclosed in JP '139 are insufficient to make a metal flow continue between both the valve guide walls including distal ends thereof and the connecting wall. To make the metal flow continue between both the valve guide walls including distal ends, which is gradually increased in height according to the grooving process, and the connecting wall, it is important to alternately repeat the first and second pressing functions to adjust the pressing forces. Adjusting the pressing forces prevents shock during the press forming, which results in high mechanical strength for the resulting rocker arm.

In fact, the Examiner does not even allege that JP '139 teaches or suggests repeating the first and second pressing functions or adjusting the pressing forces. Indeed, JP '139 merely teaches that a valve stem abutting wall of an intermediate product is compressed and formed to shorten the width of the abutting wall by pressing and that a valve stem guide groove is formed on the bottom surface side of the valve stem abutting wall by driving a press punch (see JP '139 at Abstract). Nowhere does JP '139 even mention repeating of first and second pressing

functions or adjusting the pressing forces, let alone teach or suggest that the first and second pressing functions are alternately repeated a plurality of times.

E. Results of the Interview:

In response to the arguments presented, the Examiner indicated that the limitation “alternately” added to claims 1 and 13 overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection and overcomes the prior art rejections based on the JP ‘139 reference.

The Examiner indicated that he would conduct a new prior art search based on the amended claims.

F. Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that JP ‘139 does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Serial No. 10/602,773
Docket No. K06-158963M/TBS

5

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to.

Respectfully Submitted,

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